



50 hurt as employees attack RU teachers

Controversially appointed staff want their confirmation before fresh recruitment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 50 persons, including teachers, officials and police, were injured at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday as the "controversial" 546 employees launched sporadic attacks on them and the vice chancellor's office to stop teachers' recruitment without confirming their jobs.

The attackers led by 546-Employees' Oikya Parishad convenor Rafiqul Islam Sadar ransacked the offices of the vice chancellor (VC), pro-VC and Planning and Development section.

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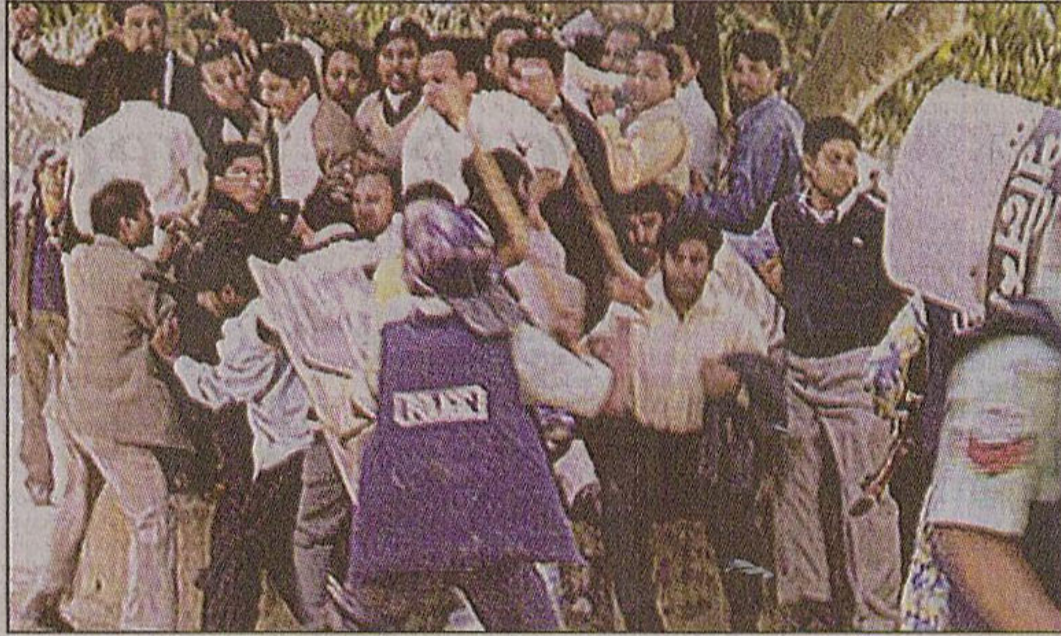


PHOTO: STAR

"Controversial" Rajshahi University employees confront the police during yesterday's clashes that erupted following the employees' attack on the teachers.

72 including 12 journos hurt as cops swoop on opposition march

Hartal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 Awami League (AL) activists and 12 journalists were injured yesterday as police swooped on an AL procession supporting today's dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the 14-party opposition alliance.

Forty others were injured in separate clashes between the police and opposition activists.

Police attacked an AL procession with batons and lobbed at least 50 teargas shells when the procession tried to break through a police barricade enclosing the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue around 4:30 pm.

The 14-party opposition alliance, comprising the AL, 11-party alliance, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and National Awami Party, will observe the countrywide hartal demanding Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz's immediate resignation and cancellation of two new election commissioners' appointments.

The clash erupted when AL activists started to hurl bricks at the police, refused to open the barricades letting the procession out of Bangabandhu Avenue.

The police charged batons and chased the AL activists into the central office. They clubbed them indiscriminately. AL activists pelted bricks and stones in return from inside their office and from the rooftops. The agitated AL activists burnt tyres in front of their office after the

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IMF, WB start terror financing talks today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) start today a series of discussions with Bangladesh to provide it technical assistance in preventing money laundering and terrorist financing.

A five-member visiting team of the Bretton Woods institutions will discuss the issues with the Bangladesh Bank (BB), commercial banks, and Attorney General's Office. The meetings are expected to go on till February 1.

Comprised of Maud Bokkerink, Marlene Manuel, Cheong-Ann Png and Maureen Sanders of IMF and Mark Butler of WB, the team will discuss with the BB a wide range of issues including the draft money laundering act.

The act titled anti-money laundering and terrorist financing act, 2005 however has returned from the cabinet recently and is likely to undergo a number of amendments aiming to curb the authority of the central bank, sources said.

The activities of Financial

Intelligence Unit, current regulations and the situation regarding remittances, Suspected Transaction Reports and Cash Transaction Report of the commercial banks among others will also come up for discussion.

The team is expected to sit down with the representatives of nationalised commercial banks, private banks, foreign banks, money changing institutions, and post office as well to discuss the anti-money laundering and terrorist financing issues.

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KUSHITIA FIASCO Leaving warehouse from search creates puzzle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushitia

Thursday's 18-hour fiasco in Poradaha, expressly to catch the outlawed JMB top brass, put on yet another puzzle yesterday as sources said the law enforcement agencies avoided searching a large warehouse on the Rashid Rice Mill premises in Khwajanagar.

According to a source, the joint raiding force did not search the warehouse mortgaged to the local branch of Islami Bank, as the police do not have the right to open or

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14kg explosives, jihadi books found in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday seized 14kg explosives, huge bomb-making materials, and over 2,000 books on jihad kept underground near the house of a Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) operative's relative in Shahjahanpur under the district.

At least 1,000 bombs could be made with the seized explosives and equipment, Rab said.

The seizure was made following information from JMB Ehsar (full time activist) Ashraf Islam alias Arshad alias Abbas Khan alias Araf, who was arrested on Thursday.

During interrogation, Ashraf told Rab men that JMB activist Taher had hidden huge explosives near his father-in-law Abul Khayer's house in Bamunia Khidirpara.

Digging up the surrounding areas, the Rab men found three

sacks 50 yards off Abul Khayer's house.

One sack contained a plastic drum which was filled with 6kg gunpowder, 6.5kg ammonium nitrate, 1.5kg picric acid, 555 ICs, 80 detonators, 500 diodes, 18 lithium batteries, 100 circuit-boards, a few watches to be used in time bombs, a scale, a drill machine and adhesive tape.

There were about 2,000 books

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4 carjackers killed in 'shootout' with cops

UNB, Comilla

Four carjackers were killed in a 'shootout' with police at Durgapur on the outskirts of the district town early yesterday.

They were identified as Jahangir Alam alias Zakir, 30, son of Joyanal Abedin of Chandpur, Alamgir Hossain Kalam, son of Abdul Karim of Narayanganj, Suja Mia, son of Chan Mia, and Ershad, son of Moslem Mia, of Sherpur.

Police said they arrested two of the gang from Comilla on Thursday night with a hijacked microbus.

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Following their statement, another two were arrested in Gazipur on Friday.

Taking a tip from the arrestees, police took them to Durgapur to recover hidden arms and arrest their accomplices. When the law enforcers reached near Shafiqul Alam Steel Mill along with the four, their accomplices opened fire, prompting police to retaliate.

Police said the carjackers were caught in the crossfire while trying to flee from police custody. They were rushed to Comilla Medical

VOTER LIST CONTROVERSY Another legal war looms

EC to appeal against HC directives, writ petitioners to bring contempt charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another spell of legal battle is set to ensue in a couple of days over the High Court's (HC) directives on voter list, making completion of the ongoing fieldwork for a fresh voter list even more difficult with only 10 days to go before the deadline.

In a day or two, the Election

Commission (EC) will file an appeal against the HC directives, sources said. In the other camp, the writ petitioners, who had challenged the legality of preparing a fresh voter list by an unilateral decision of the chief election commissioner (CEC), are also preparing to lodge a contempt of court charge against the EC for

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PHOTO: STAR

A policeman and an Awami League (AL) worker get locked in a fight with sticks during clashes between the law enforcers and the party activists near the AL office yesterday.



OUR BELOVED FOUNDING PRESIDENT
Khiorshedi Alam (Dolly Apa)
LEFT US FOR HER ETERNAL HOME

ON

SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY AT 3.30 AM. SHE IS SURVIVED ONLY BY HER HUSBAND

IFTEKHARUL ALAM

WE OFFER OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO HIM

ALL MEMBERS OF

GULSHAN LADIES COMMUNITY CLUB

C-127



Amazed vision
Boundless dreams
Immense possibilities

2 days to go...